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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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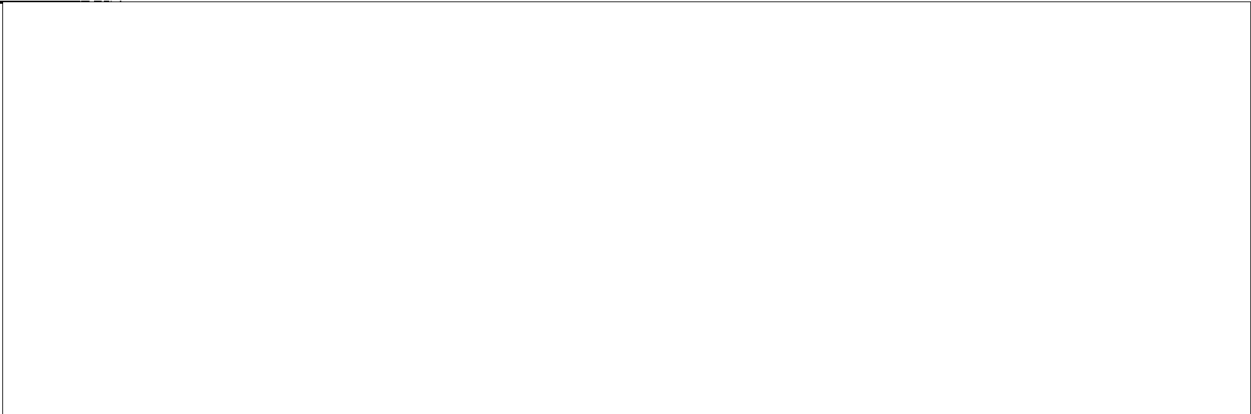
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COUNTRY USSR**DATE DISTR.** 19 NOV. 53**SUBJECT** Medical and Health Conditions at Krasnoarmeyskiy **NO. OF PAGES** 9**PLACE
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HOUSING

1. We lived in an area known as Krasnoarmeyskiy, often improperly referred to as Putilovo. This area was about 70 kilometers north of Moscow and consisted of three complexes or settlements with a total population of about 6000. One of these complexes was known as Fabrika and consisted of the KRAF (Krasni Armiya Flot) or factory and the settlement around it where the factory workers lived. The second area, known as Krasneposel, was a small village.
2. We lived in the residential area of the Design Bureau and S.N.I.P. usually referred to as Polygon, which was a large complex so named for its many sides. It was originally designed according to the French influence for protection against outside attack. Most of the people who lived in Polygon were employed at an artillery testing ground where rockets were tested. This testing ground was recently named the Scientific Research and Testing Ground.
3. In October 1946, when we first arrived in Polygon there was a shortage of housing. An order to the Soviet inhabitants to vacate their homes to make room for the German families was sent out. The offices for the staff of the testing ground were also vacated, thus

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providing temporary housing for the Germans. There were about 15 German families at the time. The offices provided two to three rooms per family with two municipal kitchens for the use of the German housewives. Group leaders were provided with slightly better housing. Eventually each German family was able to obtain a private house. Houses in Polygon consisted essentially of two types, three-storied stone houses and two-storied wooden houses. The stone houses were double, with one family living on each side. In the last year several wooden houses known as "Finnish houses" were erected in the area. The Soviets were at first distrustful of these and thought they would be very cold inside. However, they could be heated with logs and turned out to be very warm. Most of the German specialists were provided with stone houses. These consisted of a living room, dining room, bedroom, kitchen and bath with a hall or vestibule in which were located clothes closets. There was also an enclosed glass porch which could be used in the summer.

4. There were from 400-600 people living in Polygon. The local Soviet people lived in either wooden or stone houses. The Soviets were only entitled to small quarters but could improve their living conditions by obtaining more important jobs. Most of the local families lived under very crowded conditions with one family occupying each room. The Soviet families were rather large, consisting on the average of a grandparent, mother, father and three children.

FOOD SUPPLY

5. In 1946, when we first arrived, the food situation was very poor. In the early days one could get only about 80 grams of bread a day and potatoes were scarce and very expensive. One hundred grams of potatoes cost about 400 rubles (or the monthly salary for the average worker). Although this situation improved, there was never an excess of food and certainly no choice. One went to the State-operated store to buy what was necessary. This store carried only the food essentials. There were often shortages in certain foods. As an example, one could buy peas or beans for perhaps a month and then these would disappear from the market for several months. Sauerkraut was always available and the Soviet people ate large quantities of this. At times bread was very scarce. It was often necessary to stand in line for hours in order to buy bread. The bread was brought from another town and when transportation difficulties arose, there would be no bread. Butter was also scarce. Oils were used for cooking. Most of the native population used sunflower oil. Olive oil was available but was very expensive, as was pork fat. Some margarine was available. Shortly before our return from the USSR it became impossible to buy meat for a time. Eggs were available occasionally. The Soviet people had a habit of buying only what was needed for that day and never kept a supply of any food-stuff. Consequently, when there were shortages or transportation problems, they had to do without the food. One always had to stand in line for rationed products. Some people would get in line two or three times or have members of the family also stand in line, thus obtaining more than their share of the product.
6. The farmers were required by the State to produce a certain amount

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of food for the government. If they produced more than was required, they were allowed to sell the remainder on the free market where they charged very high prices. One could buy meat, potatoes, white cabbage, mushrooms and some eggs, fruit and cucumbers on the free market.

7. White bread was rarely available. Most of the bread was made of a very roughly ground rye flour. The bread was usually sour and wet, but it could be cut into slices, dried out and was then fairly edible.
8. Milk was sold in the State store but sometimes was reserved for small children. The State milk was considerably cheaper than that bought on the free market, but the cream had often been removed from it. Most of the milk used by us was bought from farm women who came from door to door with large cans and poured out whatever amount one required. This milk was always good and rich in cream. It had a fine flavor. Pasteurized milk could be obtained in Moscow, but in the Putilovo area it was raw. I do not know if the cows were checked. Meat was sold by the State store and also from door to door. All meat bore a stamp of approval and one could always ask to see this stamp before purchasing the meat. I am not certain whether this was a stamp indicating the veterinary inspector's approval or a control method to prevent the meat from being sold on the black market.

FOOD SANITATION

9. In general the food shops were not too clean, but the floors were often swept, washed and sawdust was put down. There was no electric refrigeration of any kind. In the winter time the Vorya river froze and blocks of ice were cut from it. These were wrapped, covered with sawdust and stored in an ice house. The ice was then used in the State store and in the canteen.
10. There were strict laws for the sanitary handling of food products, but these were not always observed. Meat was left hanging in the sun, exposed to flies. Mouse excrement was often found on cheese, nuts, etc. but nobody seemed to mind. Occasionally a medical inspector would come from Pushkino to investigate complaints and to check on the handling of foods. After this visit things always improved for a while but soon went back to the old ways. When we visited Moscow we found the sanitary handling of food to be much better.

MEDICAL CARE

11. Medical care at Polygon was provided by a dispensary. This was a one-story, stone, barracks-type building with a corridor and rooms opening off each side. There was a receiving room, a room for general treatment, a pediatrics room, dentist's office, bandaging room, therapy room and a pharmacy. There was a feldsher on duty at the dispensary, also a woman physician who specialized in pediatrics and a woman dentist. For a while the Polygon dispensary had two dentists, one young and one old, who did not get along well together. The younger dentist was fairly competent. Specialists came from the Polyclinic, located in

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Fabrika, about once a week. At other times one had to go to Fabrika to obtain specialist care. I think this dispensary in Polygon was originally set up to handle any injuries which might occur on the testing range. There may now be another dispensary on the testing range, but I am not certain.

12. Most cases requiring specialist care were sent to the Polyclinic in Fabrika. This was located in the same building with the hospital. It was a large stone building, three stories high and built in a U shape. Each wing of the U was approximately 50 feet long and the connecting portion was about 100 feet long. The specialists who served in the hospital also served the Polyclinic. Most of the doctors were women.
13. The hospital provided services for surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics-gynecology, ophthalmology and special diseases. There was a special children's hospital located in a separate building. The infectious disease section was also located in a separate "bloc-house" type building. I was never in this building, but it was dirty and run-down on the outside and very probably was the same way on the inside.
14. The maternity section was also separate from the rest of the hospital. This section was housed in a one-story stone building. There were about 20 beds. There was a law that all children must be born in the hospital, not at home. A pregnant mother was released from her job about eight weeks before delivery. After delivery she remained in the hospital for 14 days and was allowed no visitors nor were the babies shown to visitors. It was sometimes possible to view both the mother and child by peeking through the windows of the hospital.
15. The first floor of the main hospital building had offices and rooms for X-ray. The surgery was on the second floor. There was also a pre-operative room there. I do not know exactly where the other services were located in this building.
16. The man who served as head of the hospital, as well as head of the surgery and internal medicine services, was an internal medicine specialist from Moscow. He had served many years in the hospital in the Kremlin but had been released from his duties there because of old age. He was also an outstanding surgeon and still was able to perform the most difficult operation with facility.
17. There was a lack of sterile conditions in the hospital. Some effort was made to keep things clean and sterile, but the measures were not sufficient. All visitors to the hospital were required to wear a "white" gown. On the occasion of my visit to this hospital the gown was so dirty that I refused to put it on, whereupon they brought me a clean surgical gown. Electricity was sometimes shut off during the sterilization process. Often there was no hot water. Operating instruments were wrapped in newspapers; dentists rinsed their anesthetic needles and instruments in tap water and used them again immediately. Needles, syringes and other equipment which should have been boiled were often just soaked in tepid water.

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18. In the factory itself there was another dispensary with a dental station and doctors who took care of the routine industrial problems of the workers. As I did not work in the factory I had no occasion to go to this dispensary and so am unable to furnish any further details.
19. The procedure for obtaining medical help was to first visit the dispensary. If the condition could not be taken care of at the dispensary, the person in charge there referred the patient to the Polyclinic. The Polyclinic could refer the case to the hospital if necessary. Occasionally it was possible to obtain medical aid in Moscow. While we were in Putilovo, we knew of a case of a woman who had a serious pelvic condition. She did not feel that she was receiving proper treatment at the Polyclinic and insisted on being sent to Moscow. Eventually she was referred to Moscow. She could not have gone there on her own, but first had to have the written approval of the doctors in the Polyclinic.
20. No charge was ever made for medical care in Putilovo. However, this was not the case in Moscow. In Moscow there was a special clinic for all foreigners and a certain fee for medical care had to be paid there. There was a story told that the Soviets had imposed this fee because the Americans in Moscow were getting all their dental care at the expense of the Soviet government.
21. It is possible for dentists to have a private practice in addition to their State duties. Also, some physicians were employed as consultants and received special fees for this. However, most of the time they were kept busy in the State-operated Polyclinic or hospital and had little time for outside practices.
22. There were no military physicians or military medical installations in the area. The rocket range was a scientific testing ground and was not associated with a military camp.
23. As Putilovo was only about 70 kilometers from Moscow, there were no training facilities of any kind in the area for medical personnel. All this took place in Moscow.

INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

24. There was a Soviet law which stated that all factories and similar plants must have a safety engineer. It was his duty to see that safety regulations were imposed and practiced. He reported and investigated all accidents. If an accident occurred in the factory, the case was handled in the usual manner, e.g., dispensary, Polyclinic, hospital. A newspaper once carried an article stating that women were forbidden by law to lift more than a certain weight. However, I noticed that the women in Moscow were lifting and laying streetcar tracks. The only man on the job was a supervisor who spent all his time keeping records. There appear to be many such laws in the USSR, but they are not in effect.

DISEASES

25. In addition to the typhoid and malaria already mentioned, there

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were some cases of pneumonia in the area. Tuberculosis was very widespread. This was generally believed to be due to the serious conditions which prevailed during the war and the crowded living conditions of many of the people afterwards. There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the area during 1946-1952. Gastritis occurred frequently during the summer. This was caused by an infectious organism and was accompanied by diarrhea. A bacteriophage was used as treatment for this gastritis. It was an oily liquid, administered orally and had to be kept cool prior to use. Compulsory immunization was given yearly to the population. It was never explained to the people exactly what the immunization was for, but it was generally believed that it was for typhoid, dysentery and similar conditions. Only one shot which contained a large dose was given. Each person had to undergo a physical examination prior to the immunization. If certain physical conditions existed, particularly a weak heart condition, the person was excused from the immunization.

26. I do not know anything about children's diseases in the area. I believe there were several cases of measles. Whenever any of the people contracted an infectious disease, such as typhoid, they were immediately isolated in the infectious diseases section of the hospital.
27. The average Soviet worker was quite clean. They took steam baths once a week. The factory had its own bath for the workers. It was said that the Soviet soldiers kept their barracks very clean, and their personal appearance was always clean. On the other hand, there were some old farmers in the surrounding area who, once every year, on the Feast of Easter, came in to Putilovo to take their yearly bath. At this time they also had their clothes washed.
28. I do not know too much about animal diseases. Swine erysipelas was very common. Two of the German specialists got this disease from hogs. Dog distemper was fairly widespread and was believed to have been introduced from the Moscow area. Rabies was prevalent. When we first arrived in Putilovo, there were large numbers of stray dogs in the area. These dogs had lost their masters during the war and had become wild. Most of them were infected with rabies which was spread by the wolves in the district. The population was very much afraid of any kind of dog and would not even get near our pet puppy. This situation has improved. All of the stray dogs have been killed off and a few of the local people are beginning to have dogs for pets again, although this is not common. If a person is bitten by a dog, he is immediately given rabies vaccination. The rabies vaccine is obtained from the Pasteur Institute in Moscow and is administered to the patient in the Polyclinic or dispensary in the town. I have never heard of the disease, "brucellosis", "undulant fever" or "Bang's disease". Whenever the veterinarians find a disease among the farm animals, the people who own, or work with, these animals are immediately immunized against the disease, if it is one which can be transmitted to human beings.

BW AND CW PROPAGANDA

29. There was the usual propaganda distributed in regard to BW.

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This propaganda stated that the Western powers were planning to use BW against the Soviet people. Leaflets were distributed with statements from captured American troops who had admitted the use of BW. There were also some exhibitions of material supposedly captured from the Americans, which included equipment for the dissemination of infected insects.

PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

30. There were many vitamin preparations of all kinds available in the USSR. These could be obtained without a prescription in even the smallest village pharmacy. The Moscow subway had booths at all the stations which sold tablets and liquids. Some of these contained single vitamins and others were a vitamin complex. There was much propaganda encouraging the taking of vitamins. Drugs in general were very inexpensive. Such preparations as veronal, aspirin, pyramidon, etc. were available everywhere without prescription. Penicillin was also available in pharmacies without a prescription. The penicillin was sold in tablet, powder, salve and injection-ampule form. Large quantities of insulin were also available. Novocain was used for local anesthesia. The Soviets preferred the use of local anesthetics for all operations. They claimed that statistics showed this type of anesthesia to be safer than general anesthesia. However, the local anesthetic was not always too effective. Patients have been known to scream in pain during an appendectomy. No anesthetics or sedatives of any kind were used in childbirth. The Soviets claimed that natural child birth led to fewer complications. Alcohol was practically unavailable. It was not used for sterilization of needles and other equipment. If an alcohol rub was necessary in the treatment of a patient, three signatures were needed for procurement of the alcohol, the physician in charge of the case, the administrative assistant in charge of supplies and the head of the hospital. Colds were treated with white streptocid. Throat infections, including tonsillitis, were treated with red streptocid. Kalcex was used for influenza. I do not know of the existence of any pharmaceutical or biological factories in the area around Putilovo.
31. I am not certain where the medical supplies used in Putilovo came from, but I presume they were sent from Moscow. Medical instruments also could be bought in the stores. These were made of fine steel and were very inexpensive, selling for about one-quarter the price of non-surgical instruments of poorer quality.

INSECTS

32. There were many flies, roaches and other annoying insects in the USSR. Soviet pullman cars were filled with bugs of all kinds and there seemed to be no way to get rid of them. Some of the Soviets, and particularly those who lived in the newer houses, made a real effort to keep these insects out. In the summer time there were large numbers of flies which could be controlled with DDT and fly paper. The older wooden houses were full of cockroaches. It was difficult to keep these out of the stone houses as they were often brought in from the outside on brooms and other cleaning equipment. The Finnish-type houses were all new and did not have bugs. No local Soviets were allowed in them except for the farm women who

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brought milk to the door. There were large numbers of Anopheline mosquitoes in the area. These bred in the moors and swamps of the surrounding country. The swamps were never, to my knowledge, sprayed with DDT, nor was any other effort made to control these mosquitoes. Doors were screened and DDT was used around the homes. There was always a danger of malaria and several cases occurred while we were there. Most of the malaria cases were mild. There were not many rats or mice in the area. This was due to the fact that every local family kept a cat. There were a few field mice. There were also a considerable number of wolves in the area. Many of these were infected with rabies. I know of no poisonous fish, snakes or similar animals in the area.

WATER SUPPLY

33. The stone houses in Polygon were supplied from a public water system. The water came from wells and was pumped into a high tower where it was stored for use both in the houses and for fighting fires. When we first arrived the pumps were shut off at night and water was not available after 9:00 p.m. Eventually the pumps operated 24 hours a day. The wooden houses in Polygon were usually supplied from individual wells. Also, a few isolated houses on the outskirts of Polygon were not connected with the central water system but had a water hydrant connected to a well. The newly erected Finnish houses also had to obtain their water from outside the house, but they were to be connected to the central water supply eventually. The Soviets did more to provide a central water system for houses occupied by the Germans than they did for their own people, particularly those living in the wooden houses.
34. In the Krasenposel there was no central water system. All water was obtained from very deep wells with a bucket and wheel. This area had many wells which served 600-800 people. There was one well located about every 100 yards.
35. Fabrika also had a central water system. In the immediate neighborhood of the factory all the houses were supplied with an indoor water supply. There were, however, a few houses in Fabrika which had to obtain their water directly from a well. These wells were usually located right outside the door to the house.
36. The quality of the water supply in the area was considered good, but it had a high iron content and frequently was a rusty brown color. No chlorination was used. I do not know if any other chemical treatment was applied to the water. During most of the year it was not necessary to boil the water. However, in the spring and early summer we had instructions to boil the water because of the danger of dysentery and typhoid. Most of the Soviet people paid no attention to the instructions. However, the better educated Soviets realized the inherent danger and usually boiled the water during this period of the year. When we first arrived, there were some cases of typhoid.

SEWAGE

37. The stone houses of Polygon had a sewage disposal system. The

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sewage from several houses was collected in a cesspool. This led to a brook which flowed through the surrounding countryside, thus disposing of the collected sewage. Fabrika had a disposal system using the "settling basin" technique. This was considered to be more effective than the cesspool system used in Polygon. Most of the wooden houses had outdoor toilets which were unbelievably filthy. Even the local people thought they were too unsanitary for use and consequently used the yard around their houses for such purposes. A very strict law forbidding such practice was announced and every block had a sanitary officer whose duty it was to catch offenders and to impose a fine on them. These fines were partially effective in discouraging the practice, but it still occurred frequently. Night soil is not normally used in the USSR for fertilization. The soil is considered to be more fertile than that of Germany, and in areas where fertilizer is needed, the Soviets usually employ artificial fertilizer. However, in the Putilovo area the soil was not considered to be fertile. Although the majority of the people used artificial fertilizer, the material from the settling basins of the factory area was also used. Most of this was used on fruit trees, but some of it was also spread on vegetable gardens. Ascariasis in this area was said to be higher than in any other place in Europe.

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